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Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 /032 W
---------- 122915
R 151125Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2425
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

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USIAC

FOR INA; STATE FOR NEA/PAB

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: NEW PAKISTAN REGULATIONS FOR FOREIGN CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 9483

1. PAKISTAN NEWSPAPERS COUNTRY-WIDE OCTOBER 9, 1975
PRINTED TEXT OF NEW ORDINANCE REGULATING FOREIGN CULTURAL
ASSOCIATIONS. THE NEW LAW, RETROACTIVELY IN EFFECT FROM
OCTOBER 2, DEFINES FOREIGN CULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS AS "ANY
ORGANIZATION HAVING AS ITS OBJECT THE PROMOTION OF CULTURAL AND
FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND A FOREIGN COUNTRY, AND
INCLUDES A BRANCH (SIC) OF SUCH ASSOCIATION."

2. THE SALIENT FEATURES OF THE LAW ARE AS FOLLOWS:
(A) ORGANIZATIONS MUST NOT ENGAGE ANY ACTIVITY PREJUDICIAL TO
PAKISTAN OR PAKISTAN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ANY FOREIG TCOUNTRY.
(B) PRESIDENT OF FOREIGN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION MUST BE APPROVED
BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN.
(C) NO NEWS ASSOCIATION SHALL BE FOREMED WITHOUT PRIOR GOP APPROVAL.
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(D) ANY EXISTING CULTURAL ASSOCIATION MUST RE-REGISTER WITH GOP.

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(E) NO PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT SERVANT MAY BE MEMBER SUCH ASSOCIATION.
(F) NO ASSOCIATION MAY ACCEPT FOREIGT ASSISTANCE WITHOUT PREVIOUS PERMISSION PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT.
(G) ASSOCIATIONS MAY NOT ENGAGE IN ANY POLITICAL ACTIVITY OR MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPORTING ANY CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, SENATE, OR PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY.
(H) PROPAGANDISTIC MATERIALS MUST BE IDENTIFIED AS SUCH AND COPIES FURNISHED PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT.
(I) ACCURATE FINANCIAL RECORDS MUST BE MAINTAINED AND AVAILABLE FOR FEDERAL INSPECTION AND AUDIT.

3. THE LAW STIPULATES PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS. OF INTEREST IS FACT THAT COMPLAINTS OF VIOLATIONS CAN BE BROUGHT ONLY BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

4. ORDINANCE INDICATES THAT RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR COMPLIANCE ARE BEING FORMULATED AND WILL BE PUBLISHED AT SOME FUTURE DATE, AS YET NOT STIPULATED.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT NEW LAW MAY HAVE SOME APPLICABILITY TO PACC, KARACHI AND HYDERABAD, BUT SPECIFIC POINTS NOT YET DEFINED. INFORMAL MEETING OF PACC LEADERS SHORTLY AFTER LAW ANNOUNCED ELICITED OPINION THAT AT VERY LEAST IT WILL HAVE TO RENEW CHARTER WITH GOP (PRESENT GOP APPROVAL IN EFFECT SINCE 1959) AND PROBABLY CLEAR WITH GOP UPCOMING ELECTION OFFICERS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 6. ADDITIONALLY, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT DONATION ANY ENGLISH-TEACHING MATERIALS PROVIDED THROUGH USIS MUST FIRST BE CLEARED WITH GOP. BOOKS AND ACCOUNTS SHOULD POSE NO PROBLEM SINCE THESE ALREADY AUDITED BY PAKISTANI PRIVATE FIRM AND AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.

6. TWO INDIGENOUSLY-ORGANIZED AND OPERATED STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS IN LAHORE, BOTH ESPOUSING PAKISTAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP, MAY BE AFFECTED, BUT SINCE THESE HAVE NVER BEEN OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED OR SUPPORTED BY US WE DO NOT EXPECT TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY WAY WITH THEIR COMPLIANCE OF THE NEW ORDINANCE.

7. SINCE THE RULES AND PROCEDURES HAVE NOT BEEN FORMULATED WE CANNOT SAY WHAT PROBLEMS THE PACC MAY FACE. WE ARE INCLINED TO VIEW MATTER OPTIMISTICALLY BECAUSE PACC IS ALREADY A CHARTERED
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PAKISTANI ORGANIZATION AND HAS BEEN FOLLOWING THE STIPULATED PROCEDURES FOR MANY YEARS. OUR PAKISTANI ADVISERS SURMISE THAT THE NEW RULES WILL BE MODELLED AFTER THOSE CURRENTLY IN EFFECT (BUT NOT SERIOUSLY ENFORCED) UNDER THE CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS ACT WHICH DATES BACK MANY YEARS. IF THIS IS ACCURATE PROBABLY ONLY A FEW PACC ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES WILL HAVE TO BE MODIFIED TO COMPLY WITH NEW LAW.

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8. IN APPARENT ATTEMPT EXPLAIN GOP REASONS FOR NEW LAW PAKISTAN TIMES OCTOBER 11 EDITORIALIZED THAT LAW IS INTENDED TO CURB "RAMPANT INDISCIPLINE" AMONG ASSOCIUNIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCUSED VARIOUSLY OF SUBVERSION, PROMOTING PERSONAL AND/OR GROUP INTERESTS, AND FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES. THE TIMES NOTES THAT THE BASIC PROBLEM IS THE IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATIONS AND THE BONA FIDES OF THEIR OFFICE HOLDERS AND MEMBERS. THE TONE OF THE EDITORIAL SUGGESTS BY IMPLICATION THAT THOSE ASSOCIATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED AND ARE OPERATING WITHIN THE PRESENT LAWS ARE NOT THE TARGETS OF THE GOP'S PRESENT EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A DEGREE OF CONTROL.

9. COMMENT IN JANG IS MILDLY CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THAT THE NEWSPAPER VIEWS THE MOVE AS UNNECESSARY. IT HOLDS THAT THE FORMATION OF THESE ASSOCIATIONS PEAKED SOME YEARS AGO AND PRESENT ACTIVITIES ARE NOT REALLY A PROBLEM.

10. WE BELIEVE ORDINANANCE WAS PROMULGATED AT THIS TIME FOR SEVERAL REASONS. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMALLY TOLD IT IS DIRECTED PRIMARILY AT RUSSIANS AND NORTH KOREANS, AND THE GOP MAY WELL BE NERVOUS ABOUT THEIR VIOLATIONS OF THE "THIRD COUNTRY RULE" AND OTHER ACTIVITIES THRUGHOUT THE CUNTRY. SOME POLITICAL OBSERVERS HAVE ALSO NOTED THE ORDINANCE ENABLES ISLAMABAD TO EXERT GREATER CONTROL OVER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CENTERS SINCE THEIR PRESIDENTS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. FINALLY, SOME CONTEND IT IS IN RESPONSE TO GOP CONCERNS ABOUT "FOREIGN POWERS" FUNNELLING MONEY INTO THE COUNTRY THROUGH CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS. IN GENERAL, GOP ACTION IS IN KEEPING WITH TREND TO ASSERT, FOR VARIOUS REASONS, GREATER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER FOREIGN ASSOCIATIONS, CULTURAL OR OTHERWISE.

11. COMPLETE TEXT NEW ORDINANCE BEING FORWARDED TO INA/GILBERT.
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